

Serial No. 09/973,600
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2 and 4.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are allowed.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Cullen (U.S. 4,346,597). And claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cullen in view of Watanabe (U.S. 5,838,091).

Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art rejections of claims 2 and 4 are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are allowable.

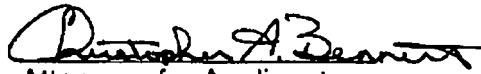
In view of the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a Two-month extension of time, extending to September 23, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,



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